



*Five Oaks is a sacred meeting place for learning and renewal where people are inspired to participate in God's healing of the world. We offer programs for all ages to deepen spirituality, experience community and learn new skills for life and work.*



Five Oaks is conveniently located in Paris, ON, south of the 403 off Rest Acres Rd. (Hwy 24 South), one and a half hours drive west of Toronto, one hour east of London and thirty minutes south of Kitchener. Also easy access to the Centre by train. See the 'Location' section of our website for more details.

#### **Five Oaks Centre**

**1 Bethel Rd. R.R.3, Paris, ON N3L 3E3**

**Phone: (519) 442-3212**

**Email: [info@fiveoaks.on.ca](mailto:info@fiveoaks.on.ca)**

**[www.fiveoaks.on.ca](http://www.fiveoaks.on.ca)**



# COMMON LIFE COMMUNITY



[www.fiveoaks.on.ca](http://www.fiveoaks.on.ca)

~ Do you hunger to connect with the mystery of God?

~ Do you yearn to deepen and enrich your spiritual life?

~ Do you seek to bring greater justice, meaning and healing to the world and to your life?

~ Do you long for a supportive Christian community to learn with, journey with and be accountable to?

If you answered YES to these questions the Common Life Community may be for you.

## What is Common Life?

The Common Life Community is a project of the four United Church Education and Retreat Centres across the country to establish and nurture a network of Christian disciples who share a common life in order to discern and do God's healing work.

Common Life is designed to address spiritual challenges of our time with five related practices:

- ◆ Engagement for Justice
- ◆ Attending to the Spirit
- ◆ Dedication to Learning
- ◆ Commitment to Community
- ◆ Retreat

The focus of Common Life is the formation of small groups that intentionally commit to explore and learn about these five practices. Participants in the groups prayerfully support and hold one another accountable to living out these practices in their daily lives and as a community. Each Common Life group decides how they will flesh out and live out the five spiritual practices.



*What does the Lord require of you,  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God.*

~ Micah 6:8

## How to Participate...

The Common Life Community gathers every year at Five Oaks to explore one or more of the five practices. Those interested in Common Life are invited to participate in this annual retreat. This will help you decide whether or not to commit to participating in a Common Life group. By engaging with the Common Life community their annual gathering you will get a sense of the profound impact that this community has for all of those involved and discern the benefits for your own spiritual life. You will explore how to live out discipleship, meet others who are searching spiritually, encounter a diversity of spiritual practices, enjoy intentional personal time and encounter deeper engagement with the sacred place that is Five Oaks.

Please contact us or refer to our website to find out when the next Common Life retreat will be held.

## Reflections on Common Life...

*"The Common Life program has encouraged me to keep a daily spiritual practice and has greatly integrated my understanding of a relevant Christianity for today."*

*"Our group has strengthened my commitment to being active in church and community and supported and encouraged me in new initiatives."*



*Community is not an end in itself. It is a way of being in solidarity with the work of the Holy Spirit.*

~ Dietrick Bonhoeffer

Please contact us if you are interested in the Common Life Community:

Phone: 519-442-3212

Email: [programs@fiveoaks.on.ca](mailto:programs@fiveoaks.on.ca)

Web: [www.fiveoaks.on.ca](http://www.fiveoaks.on.ca)

Five Oaks programs are made possible through generous donations and volunteer efforts. Please consider supporting this ministry financially.

Donate on-line, or send a cheque to

Five Oaks Centre,  
R.R. #3, 1 Bethel Rd. Paris, ON N3L 3E3

or contact us at 519-442-3212.